

AMD17-087

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From: g h [gh31@hotmail.com]
 To: Sunday, April 13, 2008 8:55 PM
 DOT STIP
 Cc: Palin, Sarah H (GOV); david.c.miller@fhwa.gov

Division of Program Development
 P.O Box 112500
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April 13, 2008

Gareth Hummel
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Hello, I am Gareth Hummel. I am an Alaskan Voter and Juneau resident. I am writing to provide public comment on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. So that they may know my opinion on the matter, I am also sending this letter to the Governor Palin and David Miller of the Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division.

Please remove the Juneau Access Project from the STIP until DOT can show a "reasonable expectation of full project funding." Without full funding the Juneau Access Project continues to look like a public road to a private mine. DOT has not identified the source for \$244 million of its estimated \$374 million projected road costs. The current funds, at best, get the road around Berner's Bay and to the Kennington mine. DOT Needs to be able to show that this is a *Juneau Access Project* not a *Mine Access Project*. DOT Needs to show a "reasonable expectation of full project funding."

This is problematic as DOT cannot show a "reasonable expectation of full project funding" until it comes up with a realistic cost estimate. DOT cannot make a realistic cost estimate until the geotechnical work begun by Golder Associates is completed so that DOT knows where the final alignment will be, where tunnels are needed, the extent of blasting and retaining walls, and so on. The costs on this project are increasing already. Please remove the Juneau Access Project from the STIP.

Alaska can't afford this highly questionable road. There are more urgent needs for our dwindling transportation dollars. The Mat-Su Borough has billions of dollars in road needs. Since the current plan doesn't actually fund the Juneau Access Project or provide access to Juneau, please move the funds for the Juneau Access Project to a project in the Mat-Su. There the public might see a projected completed--the Trunk Road, Seward Meridian Parkway, Parks Highway, or the Glenn Highway projects. Removing the Juneau Access Project from the STIP would be the honest and fiscally responsible thing to do.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Citizen and constituent,

Gareth Hummel

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